

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 /049 W

----- 098855

R 141655Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5648

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

INFO USNMR SHAPE

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USNMR SHAPE FOR AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI ONLY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, MZ, PO

SUBJ: GOP ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS

TO MOZAMBIQUE

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED ANNOUNCEMENT JANUARY 13 STATING THAT, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 14, 1976, GOP WAS SUSPENDING DIRECT COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS OF PORTUGUESE NATIONAL AIRLINE (TAP) TO MOZAMBIQUE. DECISION TO SUSPEND FLIGHTS REPORTEDLY TAKEN WHEN GOP-GOM BILATERAL CIVIL AVIATION NEGOTIATIONS FAILED REACH AGREEMENT ON TERMINAL POINT FOR TAP FLIGHTS. GOM ALLEGEDLY INSISTING THAT TERMINAL POINT BE BEIRA RATHER THAN LOURENCO MARQUES, WHICH GOP FIRMLY REJECTED FOR ECONOMIC AND OTHER REASONS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. COMMENT: TAP ASSERTS IT HAS RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL INSTRUCTION FROM GOP TO TERMINATE ITS FLIGHTS TO MOZAMBIQUE. ITS ONLY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS AFFAIR, IT CLAIMS, WAS PUBLICATION OF ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS MORNING'S PRESS.

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3. RECENT PRESS ARTICLES HAVE HIGHLIGHTED POOR TREATMENT
PORTUGUESE CITIZENS RECEIVING IN MOZAMBIQUE. DISPUTE OVER CIVIL
AVIATION IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF INCREASING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
GOM AND GOP. OTHER CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, SUCH AS AMOUNT AND TYPE
OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES GOP WILL GIVE GOM TO SETTLE DE-
COLONIZATION OBLIGATIONS, ARE LIKELY TO AGGRAVATE FURTHER THEIR
BILATERAL RELATIONS.
OKUN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CIVIL AVIATION, AIRLINES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON00271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760014-0875
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760159/aaaabzzw.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO MOZAMBIQUE
TAGS: EAIR, MZ, PO, TAP
To: STATE LOURENCO MARQUES
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006